(c) the remedial action proposed to be taken to stop such activities in future?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The Pass Book Scheme, introduced vide para 54 of the Export and Import Policy, was notified vide Customs Notification No.104/95-Customs dated the 30th May, 1995, as amended. No instance of misuse of Pass Book Scheme has been reported by the Custom Houses so far.

[Translation]

Smuggling of Chemicals

2604. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be please to state :

(a) whether the Customs officials have busted international gang involved in smuggling of chemicals which is used in the production of heroin;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the findings of the enquiry; and

(e) the action taken against the persons found guilty therein?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). Customs Authorities at Indira Gandhi International Airport seized 874 Kgs. of Acetic Anhydride, a precursor chemical required for manufacture of heroin, on 27.05.96 while attempted to be smuggled out of the country. In the follow up investigation and raids 1241 Kgs. of Acetic Anhydride was recovered and seized. Investigations conducted in this regard did not reveal involvement of any international syndicate. Seven persons found involved in the case have been arrested.

Ganesh Sugar Mills

2605. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Ganesh Sugar Mills in U.P. is lying closed for the last two years;

(b) whether the Government propose to handover the mill to private sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government to revive this mill?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The crushing activities of the Ganesh Sugar Mills have been stopped since 1994-95 season.

(b) to (d). The Swadeshi Mining & Manufacturing Company Ltd., which controls Ganesh Sugar Mills has been referred to the BIFR which has declared it to be a sick industrial company. As part of the revival/ rehabilitation package, the BIFR invited offers from the public for lease/sale/amalgamation of Ganesh Sugar Mills but no offers have been received. The BIFR has subsequently passed order for winding up of Swadeshi Mining & Mfg. Co. Ltd. There is no proposal with the Government for restarting or reviving the mills.

[English]

Import of Coal

2606. PROF AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to import 7 million tonnes of coking coal during 1996-97 to meet the demand of the power plants in the country;

(b) if so, the estimated cost involved in foreign exchange;

(c) the extent to which the imports are likely to bridge the gap between demand and supply of coking coal; and

(d) the extent to which the power supply position in the country is likely to be improved by import of coking coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c). As per information received from Ministry of Power, during the year 1996-97, there is a gap of 25 million tonnes of coal between the demand (215 million tonnes) and the agreed supply (190 million tonnes) of non-coking coal in the power sector. To bridge the gap, coastal States such as Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat have been advised to import coal for use at their stations. So far only Tamil Nadu has imported coal and presently on import order of 2.5 million tonnes of coal is under execution.

(d) Depending on the quantum of Actual import of coal the generation of electricity would get augmented.

Machinery Purchased by BHEL

2607. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has conducted an investigation into alleged foreign exchange violation in the purchase of second-hand machinery costing around Rs.20 crores by Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. Haridwar;

(b) if so, the details thereof and particular of the officials involved therein; and

(c) the present status of the investigation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The CBI has registered a case